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**Veterans organization gives Rep. Ed Pastor high mark for supporting troops**

PHOENIX, Ariz. - A nonprofit veterans organization has given U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor, D-Ariz., on "A" for his voting record on key Iraq and Afghanistan veterans issues, according to the group's 2008 Congressional Report Card.

Pastor took a pro-veteran position on 11 out of 13 key legislative votes, announced the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA). In addition, Pastor was recognized for being one of the cosponsors of the new GI Bill.

The votes covered a range of issues facing new veterans, including veterans' health care, the new GI Bill, mental health and support for homeless veterans.

"Veterans should be a priority for Congress," Pastor said. "It is vital to support our troops and provide them with the resources to get their jobs done and return home safely. And it is just as critical to make sure they are not forgotten when they return home and are in need of resources to address their health care and housing needs."

IAVA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and the nation's first and largest group dedicated to the troops and veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their civilian supporters, according to the group's website at [www.iava.org](http://www.iava.org).